DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 350 985 IR 015 796

AUTHOR Wheeler, Daniel D.
TITLE KIDLINK in War and Peace.
PUB DATE 21 Apr 92
NOTE 29p.; Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association (San Francisco, CA, April 22-24, 1992).
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adolescents; *Computer Networks; *Electronic Mail; Elementary Secondary Education; Foreign Countries; Global Approach; *Man Machine Systems; Peace; Preadolescents; *Telecommunications
IDENTIFIERS *Gulf War; *KIDLINK Project (Electronic Mail)

ABSTRACT

This paper describes the KIDLINK Project, a worldwide e-mail exchange with children from 10 to 15 years of age, which was created as part of the 1990 Children's Cultural Week in Arendahl, Norway, by Odd de Presno, a Norwegian journalist and author of computer books. The goal of the project is to create a global dialog among as many children as possible. The KIDLINK project is now running on Bitnet LISTSERV at North Dakota State University and is directly connected to both Internet and Bitnet. This paper describes the separate mailing lists used by the project for different aspects of its work, i.e., the RESPONSE List; the KIDCAFE List; the KIDS-92 list; the KIDPLAN list; and the KIDPEACE list. KIDLINK in time of war during the Gulf War and KIDLINK in time of peace are compared, and many examples of messages sent by children and a graph of the volume of messages sent by children from January 1991 to March 1992 are appended. It is noted that KIDS-91 had 2,600 participating children from 31 countries. (ALF)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED350985

KIDLINK in War and Peace
(AERA Presentation: San Francisco, 1992 April 21)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

Daniel D. Wheeler

[Copyright (c) 1992 Daniel D. Wheeler. All rights reserved. This paper was presented at the American Educational Research Association 1992 Annual Meeting.]

INTRODUCTION

I'd like to begin in the middle of this talk by showing you an email letter that was written by an Israeli boy at the beginning of the Gulf War. (Show NACH1 slide) In this message Nachshon describes what it is like to experience a SCUD missile attack. I was very impressed by the last part of his letter which said:

> It's not so nice to be a kid under air attacks, Thinking of the poor kids in Baghdad, who suffer ten times more than me, I just hate Sadam for me and for them too ! I hope one day I could meet some kids from Iraq, In peace, and we would all share our bad memories from this war.

This presentation is about the KIDLINK Project. Our goal is to create a GLOBAL dialog among as many children as possible in the 10 to 15-year-old age group. (Show GOAL slide) I'll give a bit of the history and explain how the project works. Then I'll talk about what the kids have done, both at the time of the Gulf War and more recently in a time of relative peace.

The Beginning of KIDLINK

The originator and leader of the KIDLINK Project is Odd de Presno, a Norwegian journalist and author of computer books. As part of the 1990 Children's Cultural Week in Arendahl, Norway, he wanted to create an email exchange with kids in other countries. Nancy Stefanik in Washington, D.C. agreed to help and the two of them organized a dialog on the SciNet conferencing system in Canada. During the two-week period during May of 1990, 260 kids from Norway, Canada, and the United States participated in the exchange.

Odd and Nancy were really impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of the kids. Later that spring Odd and Nancy met (here in San Francisco) at a meeting of the Electronic

112015796

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Daniel D. Wheeler
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Networking Association. They were so pleased by the response to their limited experiment that they decided that it ought to be done on a wider scale and for a longer period of time. Thus KIDS-91 was born: a year-long dialog among as many kids as possible from as many places as we could reach.

KIDS-91 led to KIDS-92. We are now nearing the end of our second full-year project. Along the way we picked up a new name. We call ourselves KIDLINK so that we have a name that does not change every year. But we still call this year's dialog KIDS-92 and we are planning to begin KIDS-93 next month, after our celebration of the conclusion of KIDS-92.

How It Works Using LISTSERVer

We are now running the KIDLINK project on the Bitnet LISTSERVer at North Dakota State University. For those of you who don't know about email forums, let me explain. The LISTSERVer is a computer program that manages mailing lists. Groups of people who share an interest in a particular topic can get together and organize a mailing list. When someone sends something to the mailing list, the LISTSERVer sends it back out to everyone on the list. Further comments from other people get sent to the list and then to everyone. In this way, a group of people can carry on a discussion about some topic. There are thousands of lists on topics ranging from the Grateful Dead to the mathematics of fractals. There is even a list to discuss educational research--sponsored by AERA.

The LISTSERVer is directly connected to both Internet and Bitnet, the two major world-wide academic networks. These networks are, in turn, connected to others so that email from our project can reach practically anywhere. Universities around the world have been very helpful in providing access for K-12 teachers and students. But not every teacher can get a university account. In many places there are what we call "mail exploders." These are computer systems that are subscribed to our lists and get one copy of each message. Then they distribute the messages to all their local subscribers. In this way we reach a much wider audience than it might seem from looking at our subscription lists.

The KIDLINK project uses several separate mailing lists for different aspects of our work. As I explain more about what we do, you will see how we use the major lists.

The RESPONSE List

The first step for kids who are interested in KIDLINK is to introduce themselves by writing their answers to these four questions: (show QUEST slide)

1) Who am I?
2) What do I want to be when I grow up?
3) How do I want the world to be better when I grow up?
4) What can I do now to make this happen?

We find this to be a powerful set of questions. It usually provokes thoughtful answers and sets a serious tone for the KIDLINK project. We have a separate mailing list, named RESPONSE, for the answers to these questions. Here are two recent examples. (show RESP slide)

The first set of answers is from South Africa. I have been delighted that the kids from this integrated private school in South Africa have been able to make contact with other kids around the world through the KIDS-92 project.

The second set of answers is from Norway. This is obviously a younger student, probably not quite comfortable writing in English. Although we try to encourage longer and more thoughtful answers to the questions, we don't set standards. We are delighted to have any kid within our 10 to 15 age range participate at whatever level they are capable of.

Most of the contributions to the project are in English, but we welcome them in any language. We have had messages in French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and even one in Latin! (But I didn't see an answer in Latin.)

The KIDCAFE List

After kids have introduced themselves by sending their answers to RESPONSE, they are free to participate in KIDCAFE. Kids can write to each other in KIDCAFE and say anything they want. Here is an example of a recent message in KIDCAFE. (show CAFE1 slide)

Adrianna covers the standard topics kids use to get to know each other: her age, her family, her pets, and her favorite activity: reading.

These messages are sent out to all participants, so everyone can see all the messages to everyone else. This makes it possible for the kids to know each other better; they learn about all the other kids, not just the ones with whom they are exchanging messages.

Most of the messages are shorter than this. Here is a sample of three more typical messages. (show CAFE2 slide) These cover the same territory of age, family, and

interests. There is nothing very profound here--the kids are just beginning to make contact with one another. These brief messages serve this critical function.

The KIDS-92 List

In addition to our mailing lists for the kids, we have some for adult. The KIDS-92 mailing list is for the teachers and other adults involved in the project. It contains news about local KIDS-92 activities, introductions of new participating sites, and announcements from the organizers.

Here is a sample of a message from the KIDS-92 list. (show KIDS92 slide) As you can see, this is a message from me in which I introduced Claus as a new volunteer working with the RESPONSE list.

The KIDPLAN List

The KIDPLAN mailing list is for the organizers of the project to work together for both planning our activities and making policy decisions. Who are the organizers? This is a public list that anyone can join. This is a true grass-roots organization. One becomes an organizer by joining the list and volunteering to do something useful for the project.

Right now the KIDPLAN group is very busy arranging the details of a world-wide celebration for the end of KIDS-92 and beginning of KIDS-93. This will take place less than a month from now, on May 18th and 19th. Here is a sample message. (show PLAN1 slide) It is about the plans for a live videoconference.

I'd also like to show you some brief examples from a policy discussion (some would have called it a debate) that occurred last summer. KIDLINK was criticized for being politically motivated. Here is something I wrote. (show PLAN2 slide) I suggested that we adopt a policy statement that focused on a non-partisan goal of peace. This got a quick response from Odd de Presno (show PLAN3 slide) who thought that this was much too narrow. The end result of this was a policy statement (show POLICY slide) that expressed the consensus we reached. KIDLINK is not a peace organization or an environmental organization. Our goal is to create a GLOBAL dialog; our motivation is that

> We hope that when KIDLINK kids become adults they will take a more global and long-term perspective on issues, rather than acting to maximize local, short-term interests.

This is one of the keys to peace.

Other KIDLINK Activities

These are not the only KIDLINK activities. We have a list called KIDPROJ for coordinating classroom-to-classroom activities on specific topics. We also have the KIDLINK Gallery of Computer Art. I don't have time today to describe everything we do.

Indicators of Success

I think KIDLINK has been a tremendous success. We are reaching more kids in more countries than ever before. The number of messages per week in KIDCAFE continues to grow. (show QUAN slide) In fact, this growth has created problems. The volume of messages is so high that many people cannot keep up with it. We have recently started distributing a daily index to the messages in KIDCAFE so that participants can retrieve only the messages they are interested in.

KIDLINK seems to be getting a very positive response from the kids involved. A teacher in Norway asked his sixth grade students what they thought of KIDLINK. Here is what they said. (show QUAL slide) They have learned a lot about the world and about communicating in English.

KIDLINK IN TIME OF WAR

Now I would like to turn to a discussion to the KIDLINK activities during the Gulf War. I've already shown you the letter from Nachshon in Israel. That letter was posted to the KIDCAFE list. It generated a number of responses. It was obvious to us that the war was affecting kids all over the world--not just those in the middle east and the United States.

The KIDPEACE List

The KIDLINK organizers decided that it would be a good idea to have a separate place for the discussion of the war, rather than having these messages mixed in with all the other chatty kids' stuff in KIDCAFE. We created a new list and called it KIDPEACE.

Here is an example of the kind of message that appeared in KIDPEACE. (show PEACE1 slide) These two eighth graders from a class in Wisconsin clearly don't agree about the war. But it is equally clear that they are giving it serious thought and that they are learning to disagree with one another without losing respect for each other.

The discussion was not limited to the United States. (show PEACE2 slide) Here are some opinions from Italy. These are typical of the views expressed. I think you can tell, even from this limited sample, that KIDPEACE did not become a forum for discussion and debate. Rather it was a place where kids could express their feelings, whatever they were, about the war.

These feelings changed dramatically when the war ended. (show PEACE3 slide) Here are some examples from New Jersey. Everyone is happy that the war is over. You can also see here the level of family involvement. The uncles are coming home.

The Italian kids were also glad the war was over. (show PEACE4 slide) But their feelings were quite different. There is no sign of the deep family involvement that pervades the U.S. messages.

I felt that KIDPEACE served an important function for the kids who participated during the Gulf War. It was their place in which they could express their feelings and be taken seriously. But when the war was over, KIDPEACE had served its function. We closed it down and opened a new forum called KIDS-ACT. This was to be a place to continue the serious discussions that had started in KIDPEACE, but to encourage a wider scope of topics.

KIDLINK IN TIME OF PEACE

Now I'd like to talk about KIDLINK in time of peace. I wish that Mike Gorlovoy were able to be here to tell us about Russian participation in the KIDLINK project. But the recent economic changes have made it much more difficult for Russians to afford international travel. Mike has also been elected president of the town council--a job that keeps him busy these days. So I've decided to focus on one of the kids from Mike's town of Protvino as my examples in this section.

Here is the answer to the KIDCAFE message I showed you from Adrianna Salazar in Kentucky. (show KIRILL1 slide) Kirill Lugovsky struggles a bit with his English, but there is no doubt that he is delighted to have found a kindred spirit who shares his love of reading. Adrianna mentioned that she liked Moby Dick, so he is reading it now.

Kirill also mentioned that he likes to draw on the computer. Here is one of his Tolkien illustrations that he submitted to the KIDLINK Gallery of Computer Art. (show KIRILL2 slide) I'm been tremendously impressed with his artistic ability. He makes excellent use of the capabilities of the computer medium. I'm sorry that the colors do not reproduce well in this slide.

Notice the title: "The End of the Evil Power." This is based on the Lord of the Rings by Tolkien; I don't think it was intended as a political commentary on the former Soviet Union. But I am not familiar enough with Russian culture to be a judge of this.

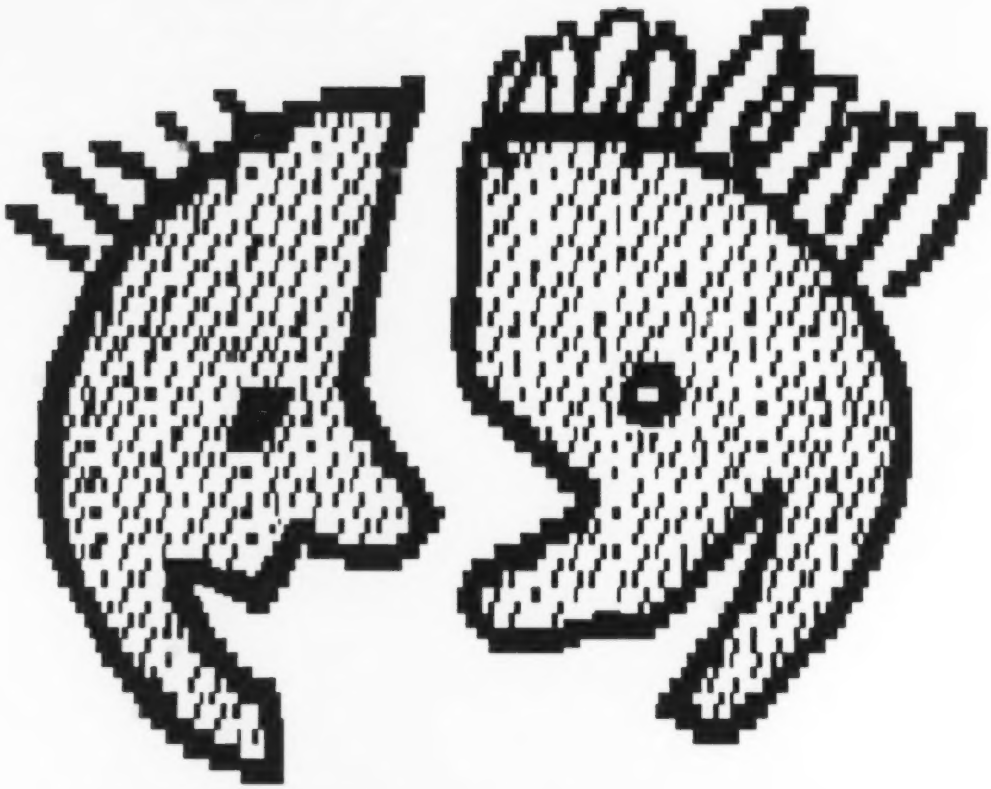
Finally, here is another message from Kirill to a girl in Alabama who referred to the "former Russia." (show KIRILL3 slide) After a gentle correction, Kirill mentions the cost of food and the danger of starvation, but says that things are still OK in Protvino. He closes by giving his regular mail address--he is afraid that email will be cut off because it is too expensive. The whole message was a page and a half long; The slide does not show it all.

CONCLUSIONS

It should be obvious that I think that the KIDLINK project is making a strong contribution to the long range prospects for world peace. I'm hoping that Kirill will continue to be able to make friends via email. I want these kids to grow up with a sense of their connectedness to all the other people in the world. I want them to approach life with a greater spirit of respect and cooperation than our present generation of leaders.

KIDLINK has been a tremendous success, but that success creates major challenges for us. Network access for schools is growing rapidly and we would certainly like to get many more kids involved. But I'm not sure that an open forum like KIDCAFE can be scaled up to accommodate many more participants. We are working on this. We have started providing an indexing service so that people can selectively retrieve the KIDCAFE messages. We've started sponsoring projects that whole classes can join. I'm confident that we will find the ways to work with a couple orders of magnitude more people.

Another danger for us is that KIDLINK could easily become dominated by the U.S. participants. Net access for schools is growing very rapidly in the U.S. So if you want help us, don't rush back home to organize your local schools. Instead, help us with finding contacts in schools outside of the United States. We are particularly interested in reaching the non-industrialized countries that are just beginning to get access to computer and communication technology.



KIDLINK

NACH1 slide

SUBJECT: Hi from Israel
MESSAGE from =uunet!VM1.NoDak.EDU!KIDCAFE 22-JAN-91 21:03
Date: Tue, 22 Jan 91 18:25:00 +0200
From: Shahar Steiff
<uunet!VM1.NoDak.EDU!CERRLSS%TECHUNIX.BITNET>
Reply-To: KIDCAFE Kids-91 Dialog <uunet!VM1.NoDak.EDU!KIDCAFE>
Sender: KIDCAFE Kids-91 Dialog <uunet!VM1.NoDak.EDU!KIDCAFE>

Hi there !
This is Nachshon from Israel !
I have read with interest the postings to this list about the war in the gulf. I especialy liked the parts where the authors gave advice to Israel to stay out of the war...
I would like to share my experiences from the two missile attacks on Israel last week.
The first atack took place at friday morning (02:00 at night to be correct). I woke up from the explosions. The missiles fell about 10 km from my home. I had to put on my gas mask (everyone in Israel has a gas mask, just in case Dear Sadam decides to try out his chemical warheads..). There was another siren at friday night (21:00) but this time it was a false alarm. I went with my father to the stadium to see the missiles in the sky, but there were no missiles... (seems strange to go to the stadioum instead of hiding ? well, I guess, Sadam doesn't aim on my home, but on the other hand, maybe that is what should worry me, because he never hits what he aims for...). The third siren was on saturday morning 07:15, this time there were missiles on Tel-Aviv, My home is near Haifa, and Haifa was not hit in the second attack.
Now that we have the "Patriot" anty-missile-missiles, I sleep better at night, and the last three nights were realy quiet.
What I "kind of like" in this war is that there is no school in Israel for the last week. It's not that I like scool that much, but I prefer school more that these missiles.
My two older brothers went to the army. I hope everyone gets home soon in peace and in one piece.
It's not so nice to be a kid under air attacks,Thinking of the poor kids in Baghdad, who suffer ten times more than me, I just hate Sadam for me and for them too ! I hope one day I could meet some kids from Iraq, In peace, and we would all share our bad memories from this war.

Bye bye and SHALOM !

From Nachshon.

GOAL slide

WHAT IS KIDS-92?

KIDS-92 is a grassroot project aiming at getting as many children in the age group 10 -15 as possible involved in a GLOBAL dialog. The project will continue until Ma 18th 1992.

The preceding project, KIDS-91, had 2600 participating children from 31 countries.

In its simplest form, the dialog will be an exchange of personal presentations and views on the desired future of this world. The means of communication may be ordinary mail, fax, video conferencing, hamradio, or whatever.

We hope that your children be allowed to participate more fully, so that they can join the other kids in the ongoing global discussion using electronic mail. More information about how this is done can be found below.

QUEST slide

1) Who am I?

2) What do I want to be when I grow up?

3) How do I want the world to be better when I grow up?

4) What can I do now to make this happen?

RESP slide

From: RESPONSE@VM1.NoDak.EDU On: 02/01/92 18:17
Subject: From St Andrew's College, Grahamstown, South Africa
From: <ZA.AC.RU.GIRAFFE::SPMV>
Subj: Answers to KIDS-92 questions from SAC

1) MY name is lu[illegible]ando mqulwana and I am from Alice (S.A) my home language is XHC[illegible]A and I was born in SOUTH AFRICA I go, to college at ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE (S.A). I AM 14,3 years old and am in std 8. Since I went to school I have only been to four school but I have never been expelled but am a rebel in my sort of way. You must enjoy life while you can.

2) when I grow up I want to be a doctor and I think I will have to put a lot of effort to be that.

3) I would like every one to live in peace to love each other and care for each other. This is the world God created for us so we must take care of it hope that happens.

4) I want to pray that happens and I hope you do that too.

==========

From: RESPONSE@VM1.NoDak.EDU On: 02/16/92 15:21
Subject: Introducing Liv-Kjersti Hodneland from Nataas elem.

Hello Kids!

My name is Liv-Kjersti Hodneland.
I live in Norway.

When I grow up I will be a baker.

People must not throv garbage around.

I can say that to them who manage the country.

From Liv-Kjersti.
Nataas elementary school - Norway

CAFE1 slide

Date: Thu, 20 Feb 1992 10:45:13 EST

Sender: KIDCAFE Youth Dialog <KIDCAFE@NDSUVM1.BITNET>

From: Leonore Salazar <usr8619a@TSO.UC.EDU>

Subject: Kirill Lugovasky/Russia msg# 4037

Hi Kirill! My name is Adrianna Salazar. I live in Kentucky, USA. I am 10 years old and I have 2 sisters and 3 brothers. I love to read. I have not yet read J.R.R. Tolkien, but my dad loves the series and has them on his bookcase. I have read the Science Fiction writer; Lloyd Alexander and some of Issac Asimov's children series. I am currently reading 2000 Leagues under the Sea. Absolutely fascinating! I have also read Moby Dick, Black Beauty and Treasure Island. Like I said I love to read!!! I live in a small town named Union, it is farmland. Unfortunately we do not live on a farm only a acrea of land. Mommy is hopeful of someday moving to something much larger, with lots of land. My father is an Industrial Pipefitter---he works on anything from large buildings to piping large amounts of water to different areas I have a dog, named Bandita, she has blue eyes. My mom has lots of tropical fish. Someday I hope to have a rabbit. I hope you will be my keypal. In your letter, please include an ID number, so I can write directly to you.

Write soon, Adrianna Salazar <usr8619@tso.uc.edu>

CAFE2 slide

==========

To: /learn/kids92/kidcafe Msg #: 6001
From: KIDCAFE@VM1.NoDak.EDU On: 03/29/92 20:17
Subject: Mike Halloran

Hi My name is R\ een Gaines. I am 13 in the 7th grade. I like to play football baseball and basketball. I love to go to parties and to the movies. I have two wonderful teachers thier names are Ms Krac and Mr Ramos. I also like to play on the computer. What things do you do on the computer. Bye now please write back soon.

==========

To: /learn/kids92/kidcafe Msg #: 6046
From: KIDCAFE@VM1.NoDak.EDU On: 03/30/92 16:12
Subject: To Annie Grace

DEAR ANNIE GRACE,
MY NAME IS JAVEENA NORWOOD
I LIVE IN BUFFALO N.Y
I GO TO 59 SCIENCE MANGET
I AM A GIRL I AM 11 YEARS OLD
I LIKE VOLLEY BALL .
I have one sister her name is jessica she is
in second grade I am in 6nd. I would to be your
key pal.

JAVEENA NORWOOD.....

==========

To: /learn/kids92/kidcafe Msg #: 6059
From: KIDCAFE@VM1.NoDak.EDU On: 03/30/92 19:42
Subject: Olival Turman

Hi!

My name is Katie Miltner. I am 12 years old and im in the 6th grade. I enjoy horseback riding, animals (I want to be a vet some day), gymnastics, skiing, softball, swimming, and speaking French. I have blue eyes and light brown hair. I would REALLY enjoy hearing from you!!

Katie Miltner
Cincinnati, Ohio

On the subject line write: Hey, Katie

==========

KIDS92 slide

Date: Wed, 18 Mar 1992 22:24:00 EST
From: Dan Wheeler <Dan.Wheeler@UC.EDU>
Subject: A new KIDLINK List Helper
Sender: KIDS-92 Project List <KIDS-92@VM1.NoDak.EDU>
To: Multiple recipients of list KIDS-92 <KIDS-92@VM1.NoDak.EDU>

KIDLINKers,

I am delighted to announce that Claus Berg has joined me as a "List Helper" for the KIDLINK Project. Either of us will be glad to help people who have questions about how to participate or who have problems with their subscriptions to our lists.

Claus will be working primarily with the RESPONSE list. This is the first point of contact for new participants and Claus will be doing what he can to make everyone feel welcome. I will continue my efforts with KIDCAFE.

Claus's email address is: Claus_Berg@skole-kom.uni-c.DK

Peace, Dan

<< Daniel D. Wheeler Internet: Dan.Wheeler@UC.Edu >>
<< University of Cincinnati Bitnet: wheeler@ucbeh >>

PLAN1 slide

Date: Fri, 27 Mar 1992 12:42:26 +0100
From: Unni De Presno <Upresno@oscar.bbb.NO>
Subject: Videoconf.
Sender: KIDPLAN KIDS-92 Planning <KIDPLAN@VM1.NoDak.EDU>

Good work Anton and Randall and congratulations to Montreal and Ottawa!!! Norway looks forward to be "seeing" you at the videoconference in May.

Our technical director is,

Norwegian Telecom - South Region
Finn Egil Halvorsen
Senior Engineer & TD Videoconferencing Studio
Postbox 1514 - Myrene
N-4801 Arendal
Norway
Phone +47 41 18291 or 18100
Fax +47 41 25150

You will receive more information about the other sites as soon as they confirm their participation.

As to your qeustion Mark, about
<about whther AT&T or MCI has sponsoret or will be sponsoring any
<part of KIDS-92.

Nancy will know about this.
As far as I can remember, the following communications companies were involved in sponsoring the KIDS-91 videoconference:
- US Sprint
- CAE Link
- Bell Canada
- British Telecom International
- Finnish Telecom
- Norwegian Telecom

The contact person in Washington DC at that time was Ken Lucas, phone 703-739-8101 and 703-739-8098.

Keep up the god work! And let me HEAR FROM MORE COUNTRIES!!!!!WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE.

Unni
KIDS-92 International
Videoconference Coordinator
032792

PLAN2 slide

Sample KIDPLAN message (edited and shortened):

Date: Tue, 6 Aug 1991 17:24:00 EST
From: Dan Wheeler <Dan.Wheeler%UC.Edu@VM1.NoDak.EDU>
Subject: RE: Criticism about KIDLINK
Sender: KIDPLA' :IDS-92 Planning <KIDPLAN@VM1.NoDak.EDU>

It has always been clear to me that KIDS-91 had an underlying political purpose or agenda. . . . This sense of purpose is what distinguishes the KIDLINK projects from other efforts to promote the educational use of telecommunications, like Bob Carlitz's KIDSNET or K12Net.

I've tried to write a brief statement about the purpose of KIDLINK as I see it. This is what I came up with:

> The goal of KIDLINK is to promote world peace by developing understanding among the peoples of the world. We want kids to learn that people all over the world are the same in essential ways that make friendships possible. We also want them to learn that there are fundamental disagreements that are hard to resolve. Finally, we want them to see that co-operative efforts are the only way some of the world's problems could ever be solved. Beyond these general goals, KIDLINK does not take sides on specific issues.

I must admit that when I first started participating in KIDS-91, I was a bit suspicious about possible hidden agendas. I've encountered too many "peace" activists who are really saying that all we have to do to have peace is adopt their point of view. I have become satisfied that there is not a hidden agenda behind KIDLINK, and that KIDLINK itself is open to diverse views.

. . . it would be useful to have a clearer statement of purpose for ourselves. It was with this in mind that I wrote the paragraph above. But I am not satisfied with it. It leaves out the theme of outreach to underdeveloped and currently unconnected parts of the world. Maybe someone else can work on this.

. . .

Peace, Dan

<< Daniel D. Wheeler Internet: Dan.Wheeler@UC.Edu >>
<< Education & Psychology Bitnet: wheeler@ucbeh >>

PLAN3 slide

Date: Wed, 7 Aug 1991 13:00:14 +0200
From: Odd de Presno <opresno%ulrik.uio.no@VM1.NoDak.EDU>
Subject: The purpose of KIDLINK

Dan,

You suggested t following purpose of KIDLINK:

> The goal of KIDLINK is to promote world peace by
> developing understanding among the peoples of the
> world. We want kids to learn that people all over the
> world are the same in essential ways that make
> friendships possible. We also want them to learn that
> there are fundamental disagreements that are hard to
> resolve. Finally, we want them to see that co-
> operative efforts are the only way some of the world's
> problems could ever be solved. Beyond these general
> goals, KIDLINK does not take sides on specific issues.

Personally, I've never seen this as the purpose for KIDLINK. The only purpose that I have been advocating is to allow kids around the world to participate in a dialog.

I do realize that there is a high probability that world peace (=more of it) may be achieved through our effort, and I most certainly welcome that - as a side effect.

Along the same line, I welcome the possibility that our efforts may contribute to

* help children with a handicap to a better life,
* enhance education as the move towards the global village accellerates,
* reduce pollution,
* remove discrimination due to racial differences or whatever,
* help solve hunger, poverty, and health problems,
* help kids get a better start in their lives,

and a host of other important problems of our time.

Your signature has told me about your priorities ;-), and I think it's great that you can see KIDLINK as something that can help you achieve your personal objectives. I feel, however, that by making an objective that stresses ONE out of several important problems may NARROW the scope of KIDLINK, and reduce it's attractiveness to people with other priorities.

What do you others think?

POLICY slide

The KIDLINK Statement of purpose

The goal of KIDS-92 is to get as many 10-to-15-year-old children as possible involved in a GLOBAL dialog continuing until May 19th 1992. We want their responses to these questions: 1) Who am I? 2) What do I want to be when I grc up? 3) How do I want the world to be better when I grow up? 4) What can do now to make this happen?

Some KIDLINK policies

The children are free to write about whatever they find interesting, but foul language or offensive manners are not allowed.

The discussion groups for kids are to be as free from overt adult influence as possible. Adults are not allowed to send messages to KIDCAFE or KIDS-ACT.

It is considered appropriate for participating teachers to bring materials about world affairs into their classrooms.

KIDLINK may make material/information about world problems and associated projects to solve these problems available to the local organizers of the KIDLINK projects. This information is to be made available as files to be retrieved from the KIDS-9x archives. Such information is not to be distributed to KIDCAFE or KIDS-ACT.

KIDLINK is impartial as to what methods are being used to solve the problems of the world today. KIDS-92 does not promote specific solutions to problems or political points-of-view.

KIDS-92 welcomes participation from anyone with a general interest in promoting global dialog. Beyond having the kids introduce themselves with their answers to the four questions, you are welcome to pick from our activities those that are best for your kids.

Our motivation

KIDS-92 is based on the idea that getting kids around the world to talk to each other will allow them a direct experience with friends having the common experience of childhood but often in very different circumstances.

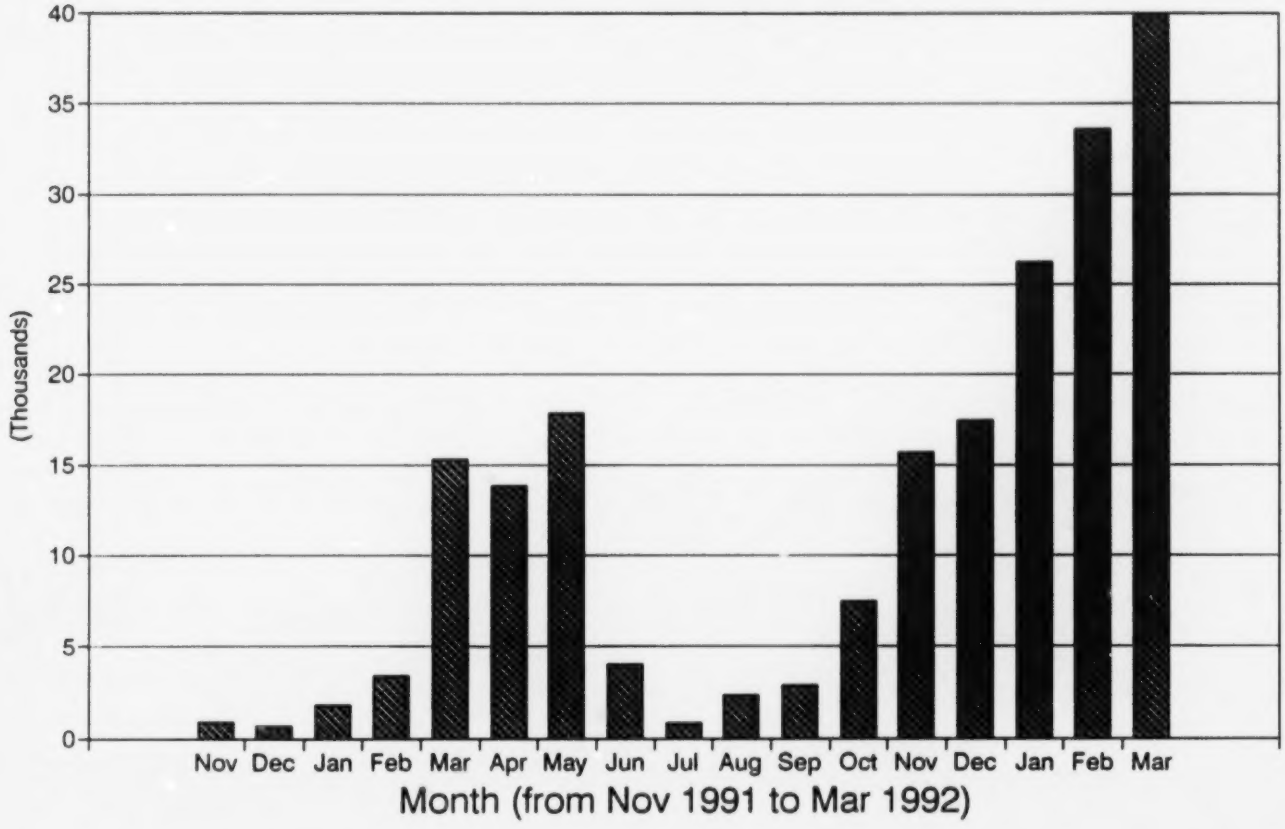
By hearing a range of opinions and developing familiarity with different ideas, we can hope to overcome some communication barriers and solve some problems in a more cooperative manner.

We hope that when KIDLINK kids become adults they will take a more global and long-term perspective on issues, rather than acting to maximize local, short-term interests.

First part of: [Policy Statement: Version 1991 September 25]

Volume of KIDCAFE Messages

Lines of Text Per Month



QUAL slide

Date: Sun, 3 Nov 1991 20:08:22 MET
Subject: 6TH GRADERS ABOUT KIDLINK

(1) What is your opinion of the KIDLINK-work?
-a- We find the work interesting and nice.
-b- It's inter ng, we learn a lot, and it's good work. At same time it's very nice work.
-c- The KIDLINK-work has been VERY GOOD, and it's incredible nice work. We get new friend, and we get to know what's happening around the world.
-d- It's nice and interesting work.

(2) What have you got from the KIDLINK-work?
-a- We have got friends from other countries.
-b- We have got pen-pals and key-pals from other countries. We have learned about computers.
-c- We have learned much. We have learned about other ways of living. We have got an impression of how many people there are around the world who want PEACE.
-d- We have got new pen-and-keypals in other countries.

(3) What have you learned from the KIDLINK-work?
-a- We have learned english and about computers. We have learned how other children are living. For excample what they do in their sparetime, and about their interests.
-b- We learn better english. We have lerned to send letters through the computer.
-c- The KIDLINK-work has taught us a lot about computers and about problems in the world, and about how the children handle the situation. KIDLINK teach us more and more english.
-d- We have learned more about other countries and how children are in other countries.. We have learned more english and learned to use the computer.

Just wanted to share the answers with you ..... Hallvard Rydland Teaching the 6th grade at Knarvik elementary school in NORWAY.

PEACE1 slide

From: VAN.HISE.MS (WEW135) Wed 23-Jan-91 15:55 GMT Sys 142
Subject: GULF OPINIONS
Jim Ersig/Computer Coordinator /Van Hise Middle School
Madison,Wisconsin USA

My Opinion of th .S. Government Role in the Gulf
by Rhea Vedro / ade 8

I believe that the U.S. occupation of the Persian Gulfand Kuwait is unnecessary and a prime example of our government's hipocrysy. Just a few months ago Bush and his administration were sending money, weapons, and supplies to Saddam Hussein so that he could kill his own people. Today, Bush insists that Hussein is a madman , the worlds next Hitler, and that he must be stopped ! I'm sorry Mr. Bush but I don't buy it. Yes I believe that Hussein shouldn't be in the Gulf, and I support the United Nations, however I do not feel that the United States has any place to say that Hussein's crime is invasion, because the U.S. is constantly where it doesn't belong; take a look at our recent involvement in Panama.

The amount of money spent by our government each week is enough to feed, clothe, and house every single homeless person in the United States! Don't you think that before our tax dollars are spent to keep troops in Kuwait, we should take care of our own people?

Opinon of U.S. Government role in the Persian Gulf/Kuwait
by Tom Ouk/ Grade 8

My opinons in the government about the role in the Persian Gulf today is that their making the right choices and doing the best they can be. I agree with them about alot of things they do. It's good that their fighting for oil. My opinons in the persian Gulf today that their trying their best to get the oil without hurting other innocent people and trying to get the people out of Kuwait before they will be killed or the other troops keeping them pirsoners. I agree with the government with war against Iraq. My other opinons with the government today is that still today they will do everything they can do to help and support the war and the economy today. If the government is still role playing in the Persian Gulf today they will be more superior in the world today. They will know how, what and when to destroy the world. I will predict that the government will totally destroy the country Iraq. The superior american troops will take actions against the Iraqes.

PEACE2 slide

Date: Wed, 27 Feb 91 17:52:00 N
Sender: KIDPEACE Kids and War <KIDPEACE@NDSUVM1.BITNET>
From: GUIDORENI%ASTBO1.BO.CNR.IT@ICNUCEVM.CNUCE.CNR.IT
Subject: from Bologna (Italy)

The war in the C is as terrible as all wars because men kill other men. The Pope is recommending to stop this war immediately. This moment is most ugly for everybody

Busacchi Gabriele
via Mazzini n 15
40138 Bologna - Italy

War is stupid, because it causes many casualties.
Iraq versus most N.A.T.O. members countries!
Every day I watch the news on TV, the pictures are horrible.
The war is in the Persian Gulf, battles and fights are in Iraq, in Kuwait, but why missiles against Israel?
I do not understand this war.
The war for me does not bring any benefit.
War always causes death and grief, infact many children are dying right now.

MARCO CIAMARONI
via Mascarella n.78/2
40126 BOLOGNA- ITALY

I think that war is not right, it's an illegal form of justice, it's a horrible thing.
Peace is the most intelligent solution for men; it's right and the heads of states must always find a peaceful solution to their problems.
To fight is equal to destructrion, murder, death, misery and sorrow.
War is an adventure without return.

GABRIELE PEDERZANI
VIA MANFREDI N.2
40138 BOLOGNA (ITALY)

PEACE3 slide

Date: Tue, 26 Mar 91 11:09:30 CST
Sender: KIDPEACE Kids and War <KIDPEACE@NDSUVM1.BITNET>
From: rodin!school13@PILOT.NJIN.NET
Subject: War and Peace Thoughts!

The following are some student responses to the end of the war in the gulf. All these students are in Mr. Safian's 7th grade class from Paterson, NJ's School #13.

==========

KINAADA ALBERT

VICTORY CELEBRATION

I AM HAPPY THAT THE WAR IS OVER AND SADDAM HUSSIEN HAS STOPPED KILLING ALL THOSE PEOPLE IN KUWAIT.I HEARD ON THE NEWS THAT 18 TO 25 YEAR OLDS WHO GO TO THE PERSIAN GULF TO CLEAN THE MESS,WHERE THE WAR TOOK PLACE,CAN EARN FIFTY SEVEN DOLLARS AN HOUR.

==========

Lakela Johnson March 8,1991
School#13 Grade 7 Safian

There should be no more wars. We should work hard for peace in the Middle East! I'm glad that the troops are free at last. My grandmother is having a welcome home party for her sons that were in the Middle East war. They are my uncles and they are coming home as soon as possible!

==========

Jarred Daniel

Victory!!!
We have won the war I'm
so glad.Uncle is coming home
He was so happy when he called.All
of the people I know are coming home.That
is wonderful and good new for me and my family!!!!!!

==========

RAHEEM CLARK, 3/15/91

VICTORY!!!

WE ARE NOW ON THE ROAD TO VICTORY
I AM BOTH HAPPY AND UNHAPPY. I AM UNHAPPY
BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE DID NOT SURVIVE THE WAR.
I AM EXTREMELY HAPPY BECAUSE OUR TROOPS ARE COMING
HOME.!!!!!

PEACE4 slide

Date: Sun, 3 Mar 91 22:39:00 N
Sender: KIDPEACE Kids and War <KIDPEACE@NDSUVM1.BITNET>
From: GUIDORENI%ASTBO1.BO.CNR.IT@ICNUCEVM.CNUCE.CNR.IT
Subject: from Bologna -Italy

****

```
PPPPPP    EEEEEE    AAAAA    CCCCC    EEEEEE
P     P   E         A   A   C    C   E
P     P   E         A   A   C        E
P     P   E         A   A   C        E
PPPPPP    EEEEEE    AAAAAAA  C        EEEEEE
P         E         A   A   C        E
P         E         A   A   C    C   E
P         EEEEEE    A   A    CCCC    EEEEEE
```

****

I'm very happy, because war is over.
Now death and sorrow are finished.
These news have brought much happiness in the world and in my heart.
But the dead men will not return to live.
'.....but we are in peace now.
I can smile and rejoy again.

ELENA MULLERI ,13 YEARS .

Bologna - ITALY

****

Finally war is over.
Finally the political men have understood that war is unnecessary and peace is necessary.
Finally there won't any mure dead men ,but only happy men.

ELEONORA GENTILI ,12 YEARS.

Bologna - ITALY

****

KIRILL1 Slide

Date: Thu, 27 Feb 1992 22:06:20 -0600
Reply-To: KIDCAFE Youth Dialog <KIDCAFE@NDSUVM1.BITNET>
From: "MX::BAZEEVA" <bazeeva@m10.ihep.su>
Subject: Adrianna Salazar (Kentucky,USA)//Kirill Lygovsky(Protvino)

Hi, Adrianna!

I'm glad to receive your letter. At first, sorry for my broken English. I am only study it now. More than, my Russian teacher say that I have big problems in Russian too. So, once more, sorry. I open the Russian-English dictionary and try to be as clear as it possible for me.

My advice to you is to read more Tolkien. It is great! You'll be satisfied with him if you like Treasure island. I don't read Mobi Dick earlier, but after your letter my mother say to me about we have it on our bookshelves. I am read Mobi Dick now. It is not Tolkien but interesting too. I like Konan Doil, John Windham (author from Great Britain), and Kir Bulychev (russian author. I think you aren't listen about him).

Protvino is in fairy place. Beside Protvino is flowing a pretty river - Protva. Protvino very little town (about 30000-40000 population) and very young (les than 30 years old). Main and best part of Protvino is Institute for High Energy Physics. Protvino is not so fine town, but place, where it settle down really beautiful! My mother like to walk in the forest with me and my brother.

The best time of my life when my father take me with him. We are often go to Institute to work on computers. I'm enjoy computer games and I like to draw on the screen. Last time I illustrate Tolkiens stories. This year at 3 January was 100 years from Tolkiens birthday, his sentenary.

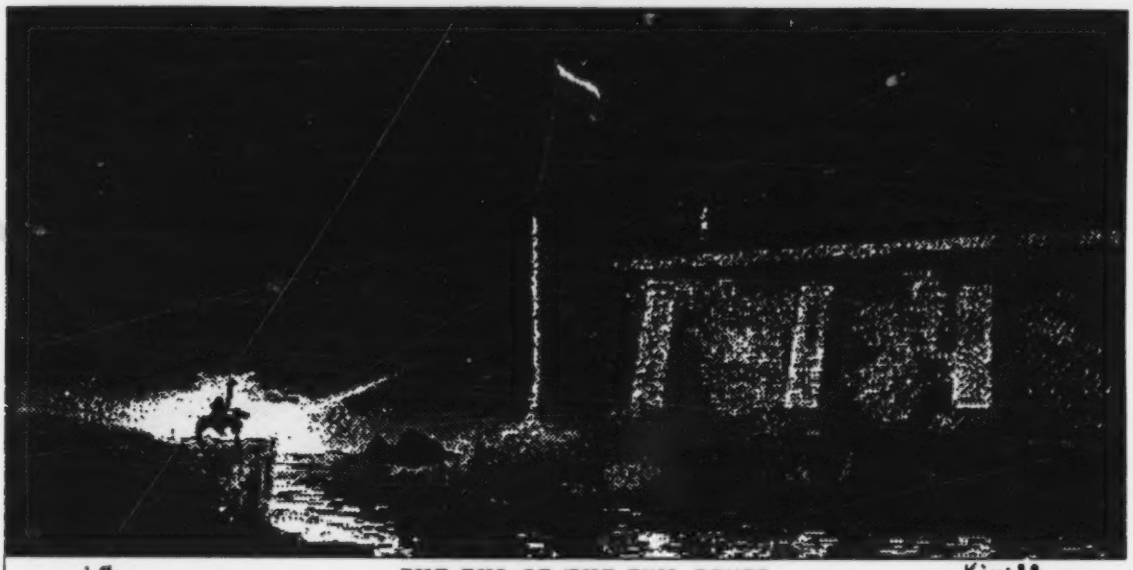
I have a brother Vitalik (14 years old). He is hate computers game (I don't understand him!), may be he is ill! He want to be a programmer. Every day he sitted near keyboard and never play!

Write to me about your town and school. I study at lyceum, 7-th form. What do you want to know about Russia, about my little russia (my family, lyceum, friends, teachers and subjects, my pets and woods around).

That is all for today. Write back, if it is possible.

Your friend,
Kirill Lugovsky.

Protvino. Russia Lycee



Russia Противник

THE END OF THE EVIL POWER
(MINAS-TIRITH)

Kirill Lupovsky

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

KIRILL3 Slide

Date: Sat, 14 Mar 1992 15:44:29 -0600
Sender: KIDCAFE Youth Dialog <KIDCAFE@NDSUVM1.BITNET>
From: "MX::GORLOVOY" <gorlovoy@m10.ihep.su>
Subject: Charlotte McIntosh (Huntsville)//Kirill Lugovsky(Protvino)

> My name is Charlotte McIntosh and I live in Huntsville, Alabama
>USA. I am a girl and am 13 years old. I have one cat and one dog as
>pets. I am 5 feet 6 inches tall and like to run at lot. I would like to know
>more about your life in (the former) Russia. Please tell me what you do
>in a typical day. What do you study in school?

Dear Charlotte!

Hi! Thank yor for your mail. I'm glad to receive it now. It is so good to think that there are so many friends in the whole word.

You asked me about our life. There are so many things in my country called now as "former", but not Russia. We are say "former USSR", "former powers", "former Suprem Council of the USSR" and new Russia, new powers, ... On the next week there will be "grate battle" between "former" and new. I'll try to tell you about the results of it, write me back with your questions.

I don't know about all Russia, but I can say that there is very high cost of food at here. Thay say that it is the danger of starwation. I know only about my little town and I see, that it is still OK here.

My typical day is good day if I go to the Institute with my father to work on computer, and not so good day if I stay at home after Lyceum. In our Lyceum we study English, history, mathematic, Russian, geometry, French, programming and geography. My favourite subjects are programming and English. Most of all I like to draw. I draw my pictures on a PC's screen with the programms Picture Maker or Paint Brush, or one of simplest drawing programms produced by my brother or father for MSX computer.

I have brown eyes and brown hair. I am not so tall as my brother but he is elder brother (14 years old). What does you look like? What weather in Huntsville (we have about 5 Centygrade) What is your postage address?

My favourite book is "The Lord of The Ring" of J.R.R. Tolkien (I enjoy his series) What is your favourite book?

It is possible that e-mail link from Russia will be closed for us in nearest future. Because the great price on e-mail communication.
My address is: Russia 142284, Moscow region, Protvino, Lesnoy bulvar, 10-83 Kirill Lugovsky.